Sarovar Project is already eligible for 90% Central grant for the irrigation component of the project falling under drought prone and tribal area. The Power Houses of the project have already been completed. Till date, the Sardar Sarovar Project has been provided with Central Assistance of Rs.5375.3585 crore under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) which is highest Central assistance provided to any project in the country.

(d) The criteria being followed to declare a project as a National Project in the country.

(i) International projects where usage of water in India is required by a treaty or where planning and early completion of the project in necessary in the interest of the country.

(ii) Inter-State projects which are dragging on due to non-resolution of inter-state issues relating to sharing of costs, rehabilitation, aspects of power production etc. including river interlinking projects.

(iii) Intra-State projects with additional potential of more than 2,00,000 ha. and with no dispute regarding sharing of water and where hydrology is established.

Flood in North Bihar

447. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a breach in a dam across the Kosi river flooded large areas of North Bihar in August, 2008;

(b) whether the river has changed its course on a long term basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it will affect the scheme of inter linking of rivers in the area;

(e) whether the flood water was stored for water harvesting in any catchments area;

(f) if so, details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir. A breach occurred in the Eastern Afflux Bund of Kosi Barrage near Kusaha (Nepal) on 18.8.2008.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir. Efforts are being made to bring the river to its original course and to restore the embankment section to the original position.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) Does not arise.